

Consumer Price Index, February 2026

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The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 1.8% on a year-over-year basis in February, following a 2.3% increase in January.

The slowdown in the all-items CPI on a year-over-year basis was largely driven by a monthly increase in prices in February 2025, when the [GST/HST break](#) ended partway through the month, and as a result, consumers paid more for affected products. This month-over-month increase fell out of the 12-month price movement in February 2026, resulting in a decelerating base-year effect on headline inflation.

The most notable index impacted by the base-year effect in February 2026 was food purchased from restaurants, in addition to smaller impacts from alcoholic beverages and toys.

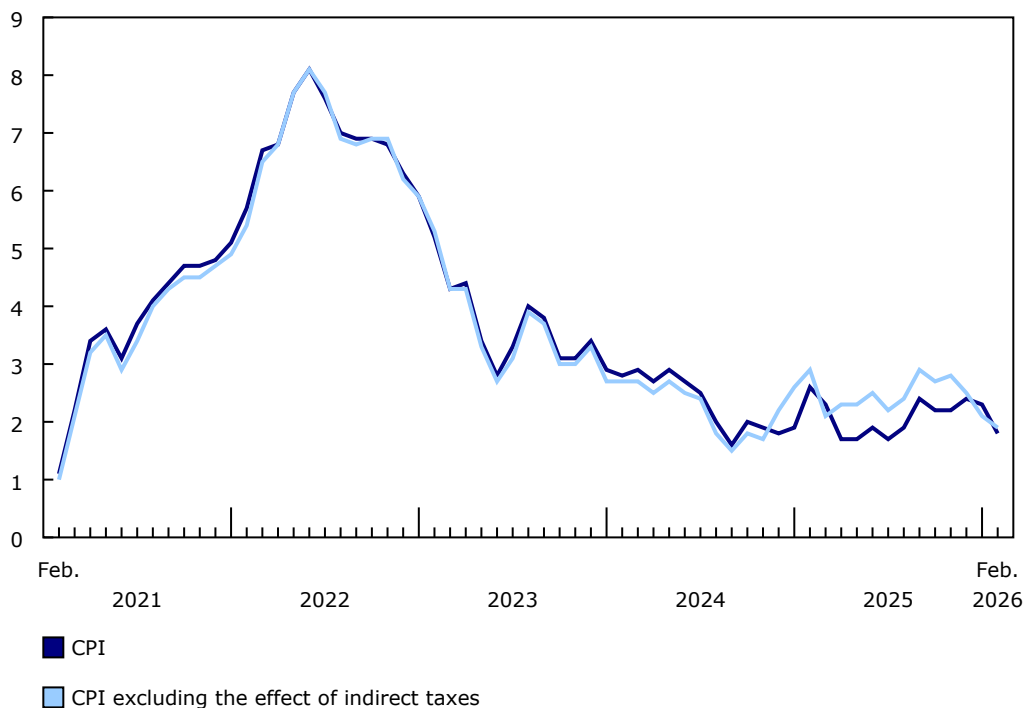
On a year-over-year basis, there was downward pressure in February from a range of indexes including gasoline (-14.2%), natural gas (-17.1%), homeowners' replacement cost (-2.1%), other owned accommodation expenses (-2.6%) and travel tours (-3.1%).

Excluding the effect of indirect taxes, the CPI rose 1.9% year over year in February, decelerating each month since December 2025 (+2.5%).

The CPI was up 0.5% month over month in February 2026. On a seasonally adjusted monthly basis, the CPI increased 0.1%.

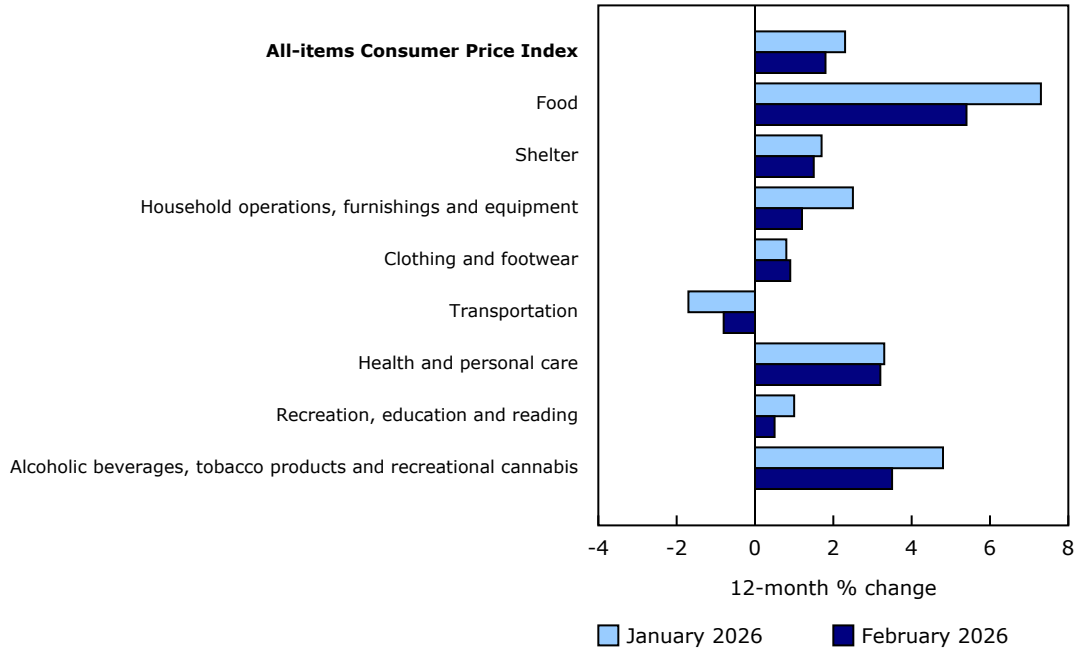
Chart 1
The 12-month change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and CPI excluding the effect of indirect taxes

12-month % change



Source(s): Tables [18-10-0004-01](#) and [18-10-0256-01](#).

Chart 2
Food prices decelerate most among major components



Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

Downward pressure on growth in Consumer Price Index with GST/HST break ending in February 2025

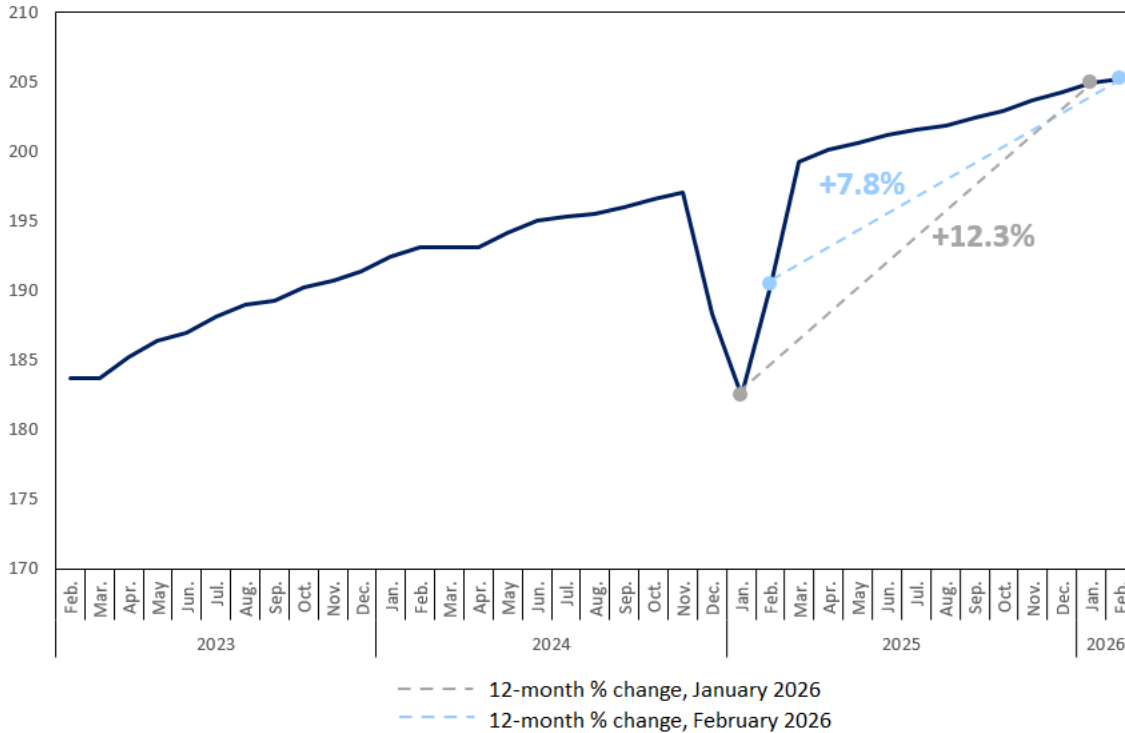
The end of the GST/HST break on February 15, 2025, resulted in monthly price increases for affected products in that month, which put downward pressure on year-over-year price change in February 2026.

Most notably, this affected prices for food purchased from restaurants. Even with this deceleration, prices rose 7.8% year over year in February 2026.

Similarly, this put downward pressure on year-over-year price growth for alcoholic beverages purchased from stores (+5.6%), toys, games (excluding video games) and hobby supplies (+5.4%) and alcoholic beverages served in licensed establishments (+6.8%).

Infographic 1 – Deceleration in restaurant prices due to base-year effect from end of tax break

index (2002=100)



Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

The GST/HST break

The prices included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) are final prices, inclusive of all excise and other taxes paid by consumers. In particular, prices include the Goods and Services Tax (GST), provincial retail sales taxes (PST) or the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST), as well as any environmental, liquor and tobacco taxes if applicable. This means that the CPI can change as a result of changes in any of these taxes.

The tax exemption began on December 14, 2024, and ended on February 15, 2025, affecting approximately 10% of the CPI basket.

Resulting base-year effect

The headline consumer inflation is measured as the percentage change between the CPI in the current month (February 2026) and the CPI in a base month or the same calendar month of the previous year (February 2025). A base-year effect refers to the impact that price movements from 12 months earlier have on the current month's headline consumer inflation. When a large 1-month upward price change in the base month stops influencing—or falls out of—the 12-month price movement, this has a downward effect on headline CPI in the current month. Conversely, when a large 1-month downward price change in the base month falls out, this creates upward pressure on the current month's 12-month figure.

March 2026 will be the final month affected by a base-year effect due to the GST/HST break.

Broad-based year-over-year deceleration in grocery prices led by beef products

On a year-over-year basis, prices for food purchased from stores rose 4.1% in February following a 4.8% increase in January. While downward pressure was broad-based, the deceleration was modest, and led by prices for fresh or frozen beef, which rose 13.9% in February following an 18.8% increase in January.

Although growth in grocery prices slowed in February, they have risen 30.1% since February 2021.

Slower price growth for cellular services

Cellular service prices rose less year over year in February (+1.5%) than in January (+4.9%). The deceleration was driven by a 3.3% month-over-month decline in February due to lower-priced plans from multiple wireless service providers.

Smaller year-over-year decline in prices for gasoline

Gasoline prices moderated the slowdown in the CPI, declining 14.2% in February after a 16.7% decline in January. The smaller year-over-year decline was due to a 3.6% monthly increase largely resulting from higher crude oil prices in the lead-up to the conflict in the Middle East, as well as oil supply disruptions in some producer countries.

On a month-over-month basis, consumers paid 9.6% more for gasoline in British Columbia in February, the largest increase among the provinces, primarily due to lower supply amid refinery maintenance and closures in the Pacific Northwest.

Chart 3
Gasoline prices rise month over month and decline year over year

index (2002=100)



Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

Explore the Consumer Price Index tools

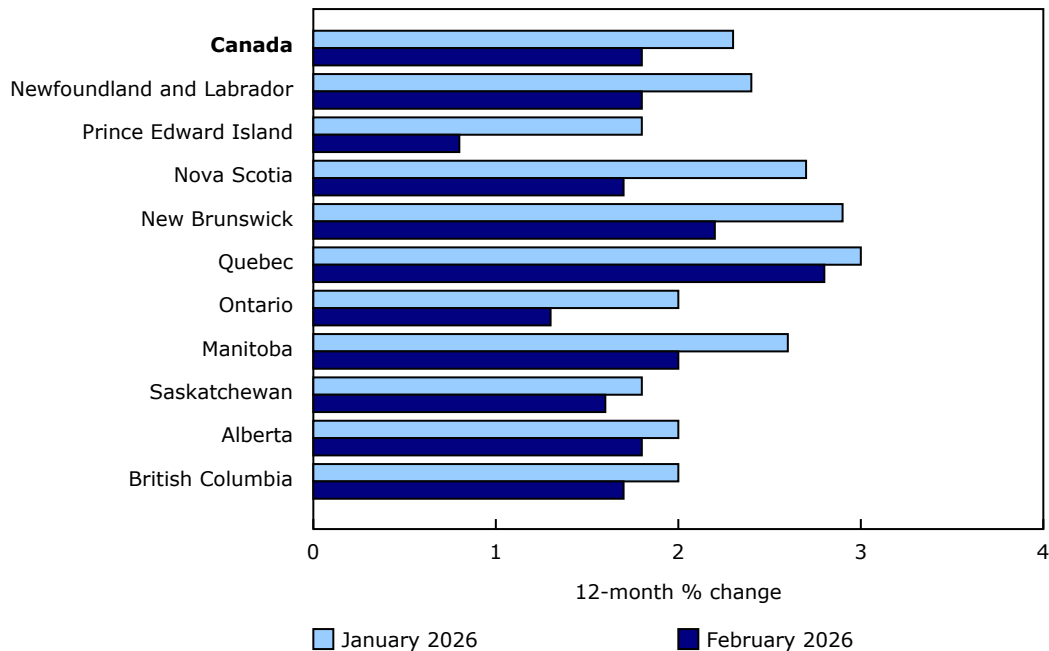
Check out the [Personal Inflation Calculator](#). This interactive calculator allows you to enter dollar amounts in the common expense categories to produce a personalized inflation rate, which you can compare with the official measure of inflation for the average Canadian household—the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Browse the [Consumer Price Index Data Visualization Tool](#) to access current ([Latest Snapshot of the CPI](#)) and historical ([Price trends: 1914 to today](#)) CPI data in a customizable visual format.

Regional highlights

On an annual basis in February, prices rose at a slower pace in all provinces compared with January. Provinces that have HST, such as Ontario and those in Atlantic Canada, were more impacted by the base-year effect from the 2025 tax break. Conversely, prices in the other provinces where federal and provincial sales taxes are not combined were less impacted, as PST was not included in the tax break.

Chart 4
The Consumer Price Index increases at a slower pace in all provinces



Source(s): Table 18-10-0004-01.

Note to readers

Visit the [Consumer Price Index portal](#) to find all Consumer Price Index (CPI) data, publications, interactive tools and announcements highlighting new products and upcoming changes to the CPI in one convenient location.

Real-time data tables

Real-time data table [18-10-0259-01](#) will be updated on March 30. For more information, consult the document, "[Real-time data tables.](#)"

Next release

The Consumer Price Index for March will be released on Monday, April 20.

Table 1
Consumer Price Index, major components and special aggregates, Canada – Not seasonally adjusted

	Relative importance ^{1,2}	February 2025	January 2026	February 2026	January to February 2026	February 2025 to February 2026
	%	(2002=100)			% change	
All-items	100.00	163.0	165.0	165.9	0.5	1.8
Food	16.91	190.5	200.7	200.8	0.0	5.4
Shelter	29.41	186.7	189.6	189.5	-0.1	1.5
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	13.25	131.7	133.7	133.3	-0.3	1.2
Clothing and footwear	4.38	92.9	92.1	93.7	1.7	0.9
Transportation	16.90	173.6	170.2	172.2	1.2	-0.8
Gasoline	3.23	228.8	189.5	196.3	3.6	-14.2
Health and personal care	5.05	151.9	156.1	156.7	0.4	3.2
Recreation, education and reading	10.12	129.6	126.6	130.2	2.8	0.5
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	3.99	195.2	201.6	202.0	0.2	3.5
Special aggregates						
All-items excluding food	83.09	157.9	158.6	159.6	0.6	1.1
All-items excluding food and energy	77.26	153.4	155.6	156.4	0.5	2.0
All-items excluding alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and smokers' supplies and recreational cannabis	96.01	162.0	163.8	164.7	0.5	1.7
All-items excluding energy	94.17	159.6	163.0	163.7	0.4	2.6
All-items excluding gasoline	96.77	160.7	163.8	164.5	0.4	2.4
Energy ³	5.83	206.4	183.0	187.3	2.3	-9.3
Goods	44.45	145.6	145.7	146.4	0.5	0.5
Durable goods	12.75	104.6	106.0	106.3	0.3	1.6
Semi-durable goods	7.11	102.3	102.1	103.0	0.9	0.7
Non-durable goods	24.59	184.7	183.9	185.0	0.6	0.2
Services	55.55	180.1	183.9	185.0	0.6	2.7

1. 2024 Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket weights at April 2025 prices, Canada, effective with the May 2025 CPI.

2. Figures may not add up to 100% as a result of rounding.

3. The special aggregate "energy" comprises electricity; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; and fuel, parts and accessories for recreational vehicles.

Source(s): Tables [18-10-0004-01](#) and [18-10-0007-01](#).

Table 2
Consumer Price Index for the provinces and for Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit – Not seasonally adjusted

	Relative importance ^{1,2}	February 2025	January 2026	February 2026	January to February 2026	February 2025 to February 2026
	%	(2002=100)		% change		
Canada	100.00	163.0	165.0	165.9	0.5	1.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	1.27	162.5	164.9	165.5	0.4	1.8
Prince Edward Island	0.36	167.0	167.6	168.4	0.5	0.8
Nova Scotia	2.45	166.3	168.5	169.2	0.4	1.7
New Brunswick	1.88	162.0	164.6	165.5	0.5	2.2
Quebec	20.66	158.6	162.3	163.1	0.5	2.8
Ontario	40.20	164.6	165.9	166.7	0.5	1.3
Manitoba	3.17	163.8	165.9	167.1	0.7	2.0
Saskatchewan	2.75	165.2	166.5	167.8	0.8	1.6
Alberta	12.30	171.4	173.5	174.4	0.5	1.8
British Columbia	14.78	157.6	159.1	160.3	0.8	1.7
Whitehorse	0.08	161.8	165.3	166.6	0.8	3.0
Yellowknife	0.07	163.1	164.5	164.9	0.2	1.1
Iqaluit (Dec. 2002=100)	0.03	144.7	145.9	145.8	-0.1	0.8

1. 2024 Consumer Price Index (CPI) basket weights at April 2025 prices, effective with the May 2025 CPI.

2. Figures may not add up to 100% as a result of rounding.

Source(s): Tables [18-10-0004-01](#) and [18-10-0007-01](#).

Table 3
Consumer Price Index, major components and special aggregates – Seasonally adjusted¹

	December 2025	January 2026	February 2026	December 2025 to January 2026	January to February 2026
	(2002=100)		% change		
All-items	166.1	166.2	166.4	0.1	0.1
Food	200.0	200.0	200.3	0.0	0.2
Shelter	189.7	189.6	189.5	-0.1	-0.1
Household operations, furnishings and equipment	134.6	134.1	133.3	-0.4	-0.6
Clothing and footwear	93.6	94.2	94.4	0.6	0.2
Transportation	172.9	172.0	173.0	-0.5	0.6
Health and personal care	156.6	157.0	157.2	0.3	0.1
Recreation, education and reading	128.8	129.6	130.0	0.6	0.3
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco products and recreational cannabis	201.6	201.7	202.1	0.0	0.2
Special aggregates					
All-items excluding food	159.8	159.8	160.2	0.0	0.3
All-items excluding food and energy ²	156.5	156.6	156.9	0.1	0.2

1. A seasonally adjusted series is one from which seasonal movements have been eliminated. Each month, the previous month's seasonally adjusted index is subject to revision. On an annual basis, the seasonally adjusted values for the last three years are revised with the release of January data. Users employing Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for indexation purposes are advised to use the unadjusted indexes. For more information on the availability and uses of seasonally adjusted CPI data, please see the "Definitions, data sources and methods" section of survey ([2301](#)).

2. The special aggregate "energy" comprises electricity; natural gas; fuel oil and other fuels; gasoline; and fuel, parts and accessories for recreational vehicles.

Source(s): Table [18-10-0006-01](#).

Table 4
Consumer Price Index (CPI) statistics, measures of core inflation – Bank of Canada definitions, Canada^{1,2}

	September 2025	October 2025	November 2025	December 2025	January 2026	February 2026
	year-over-year % change					
CPI-common ^{3,5}	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.4
CPI-median ^{4,6}	3.1	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.3
CPI-trim ^{4,7}	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.4	2.3
	index (January 1989=100)					
CPI-median ^{4,6}	220.7	221.1	221.4	221.5	221.8	222.1
CPI-trim ^{4,7}	216.9	217.4	217.7	217.8	218.0	218.1

1. For more information on these measures of core inflation, please consult the [methodology](#) and [general information](#) documents found in the "Definitions, data sources and methods" section of survey (2301).
2. The Bank of Canada's measures of core inflation, CPI-common, CPI-median and CPI-trim are subject to revision. In the case of CPI-median and CPI-trim, this results from the fact that these measures are based on seasonally adjusted price index series. In the case of CPI-common, revisions are due to the statistical technique used, as the factor model is estimated over all available historical data. Table 18-10-0259-01 contains the historical release data for these three measures and will be updated every month.
3. This measure is based on the CPI series adjusted to remove the effect of changes in indirect taxes.
4. This measure is based on CPI series that have been treated to remove the effect of changes in indirect taxes and that have been seasonally adjusted.
5. CPI-common is a measure of core inflation that tracks common price changes across categories in the CPI basket.
6. CPI-median is a measure of core inflation corresponding to the price change located at the 50th percentile (in terms of CPI basket weights) of the distribution of price changes in a given month.
7. CPI-trim is a measure of core inflation that excludes CPI components whose rates of change in a given month are located in the tails of the distribution of price changes.

Source(s): Table [18-10-0256-01](#).

Table 5
Main contributors to the 12-month and 1-month change in the Consumer Price Index

February 2025 to February 2026

	% change
Main contributors to the 12-month change	
Main upward contributors	
Food purchased from restaurants	7.8
Rent	3.9
Passenger vehicle insurance premiums	8.2
Purchase of passenger vehicles	2.7
Meat	8.2
Main downward contributors	
Gasoline	-14.2
Natural gas	-17.1
Homeowners' replacement cost	-2.1
Other owned accommodation expenses	-2.6
Fuel, parts and accessories for recreational vehicles	-12.1
January to February 2026	
	% change
Main contributors to the 1-month change, not seasonally adjusted	
Main upward contributors	
Travel tours	22.7
Gasoline	3.6
Air transportation	4.4
Passenger vehicle insurance premiums	1.8
Traveller accommodation	6.9
Main downward contributors	
Telephone services	-2.8
Meat	-1.5
Homeowners' replacement cost	-0.5
Purchase of digital media	-14.2
Mortgage interest cost	-0.3

Source(s): Table [18-10-0004-01](#).

Available tables: [18-10-0001-01](#), [18-10-0004-01](#), [18-10-0006-01](#) and [18-10-0256-01](#).

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number [2301](#).

The "[Consumer Price Index Data Visualization Tool](#)" is available on the Statistics Canada website.

More information on the concepts and use of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is available in *The Canadian Consumer Price Index Reference Paper* ([62-553-X](#)).

For information on the history of the CPI in Canada, consult the publication *Exploring the first century of Canada's Consumer Price Index* ([62-604-X](#)).

Two videos, "[An Overview of Canada's Consumer Price Index \(CPI\)](#)" and "[The Consumer Price Index \(CPI\) and Your Experience of Price Change](#)," are available on Statistics Canada's YouTube channel.

The podcast "[Eh Sayers Episode 18 - Why Food Inflation Is Such A Hard Nut To Crack](#)" is also available.

Find out [answers to the most common questions](#) posed about the CPI in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; infostats@statcan.gc.ca) or Media Relations (statcan.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.statcan@statcan.gc.ca).